"Twenty Years of Imagining New Possibilities"

Center on Philanthropy 20th Anniversary Celebration

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1. PRAISE FOR THE CENTER

As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Center on Philanthropy, we also celebrate its leadership in the field of philanthropic studies and nonprofit management.

In my inaugural address last month, I noted that everything we do here at IU must be evaluated in the light of our primary missions of teaching and research. Service and engagement, both locally and globally, constitute a third mission, one that relies on our effective execution of the first two. Everything we do at every level of Indiana University must be seen through the prism of excellence in these three areas.

Since its founding 20 years ago, the Center on Philanthropy has achieved excellence and leadership in all of these areas. It is widely acknowledged as the largest and most comprehensive center of philanthropic research, teaching, and local and international outreach in the world.

2. THE REACH OF PHILANTHROPY

As a great public research university, IU has an obligation to enrich our citizens' quality of life through education, culture, and the arts. IU also pursues research on some of the world's most difficult and intransigent problems, from poverty and disease to environmental degradation and social justice.

In addition to preserving, transmitting, and creating knowledge, Indiana University acts as an agent of change on many fronts. And the Center on Philanthropy is a very effective engine of change. One of our honorary degree recipients, Dr. Emmett Carson, has pointed out the need for philanthropists and nonprofit professionals who are "uncompromising change agents, willing to take risks and be unpopular, believing in the power of community, and above all, acting with a sense of urgency for the issues they represent."

In its quest to establish a seamless link between philanthropic research and practice, the Center educates professionals and provides resources that are fuel for change. It identifies best practices and challenges conventional wisdom. It increases the body of knowledge about philanthropy in all of its manifestations: giving, volunteering, fundraising, and the operation of nonprofits.

3. THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

In my inaugural address, I also emphasized the importance of revitalizing and expanding our international partnerships. Here, too, the Center plays an important role. Nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations across the globe rely on higher education to help them understand and enhance philanthropy in their own communities.

Another of our honorary degree candidates, Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan, has pointed out the vital importance of such partnerships, particularly to her organization's efforts to

empower disenfranchised groups. The Center has very effectively established international partnerships with universities and nongovernmental organizations that increase cross-cultural understanding, improve philanthropic practices, and help to build the global body of knowledge about philanthropy.

I will provide just a few examples: its Fund Raising School has taught on every continent except Antarctica and has partner programs in Mexico, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, and New Zealand. In partnership with one of the world's oldest and most esteemed universities, the University of Bologna, the Center helped to create Europe's first master's degree in philanthropy. Its faculty have recently taught and shared curricula with their peers at universities around the world from China to Germany to my own home country of Australia. It has highly regarded degree programs that attract bright students from as far away as Zimbabwe, Ghana, Indonesia, Turkey, Korea, Japan, Mexico, and Spain.

The composition of our audience for this ceremony provides undeniable evidence of the fact that IU is in the vanguard of international philanthropy. We have with us today 21 scholars from 12 countries around the world. Tomorrow, they will meet to explore the development of future collaborations.

The Center's work is expanding IU's international outreach and impact. It is helping to generate positive change around the world.

4. CONCLUSION:

The Center on Philanthropy will continue to play an important role in the future of philanthropy and the future of Indiana University.
To paraphrase the motto of the world's largest philanthropic foundation—I speak of course, of the Gates Foundation, which our third honorary degree, candidate Patty

Stonesifer, leads—the center's faculty, students, and alumni will continue to "imagine new possibilities" and then make those possibilities realities.

That is the job of a world-class university. It is a job that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the Center on Philanthropy have done in an exemplary fashion for the last 20 years.

Please join me in congratulating them.